

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 13, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Optimization Algorithm Description

Objective function is:

$$\min/\max NPV_1 = \frac{\sum_i S_i^1 (1+r_i^1)^{-d_i^1/365}}{\sum_i S_i^1 (1+r_i^1)^{-d_i^1/365}},$$

subject to:

$$(1) m_i^k \leq S_i^k \leq M_i^k;$$

$$(2) NPV_1 = p_2 \cdot NPV_2 = \dots = p_K \cdot NPV_K;$$

thus

$$\min/\max NPV_k = \sum_i S_i^k (1+r_i^k)^{-d_i^k/365};$$

$$(3) 0 \leq d_i^1 \leq F_k - 0 \leq d_i^k \leq F_k \text{ (approach alternative } k \text{ time frame);}$$

$$(4) d_i^k - d_j^k \leq D_{ij}^k \text{ (time relation between task } i \text{ and task } j \text{ in project alternative } k).$$

where:

(a) S_i^k are control variables: negative payments or positive receipts for task i in approach alternative k ;

(b) m_i^k, M_i^k are constants;

(c) r_i^k are control variables: interest of capitalization for task i in approach alternative k ;

(d) $p_i \geq 1, p_k \geq 1$ are control variables that are linking coefficients between different approaches alternatives; $i=2, \dots, K, k=2, \dots, K$ (the value of p is determined according to the reliability of the data and/or risk considerations);

(e) $d_i^k > 0$ are optional control variables: date of task i in approach alternative k , in case that these dates are not fixed;

(f) NPV_k is optimal NPV for approach alternative k ,

$k = 1, 2, \dots, K$ is current number of the approach alternative,

K is total number of the approach alternatives.